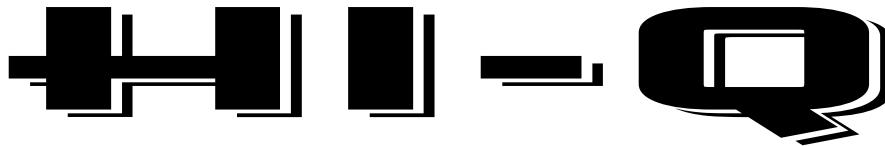




Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club



Thunder Bay, Ontario



Volume 84

February 2018

Issue 2

BOUVET Expedition Cancelled!

FEBRUARY 3 @ 21:30z — During the last 72 hours we continued to experience the high winds, low clouds, fog, and rough seas that have prevented helicopter operations since our arrival at Bouvet. No improvement was predicted in the weather forecast for the next four days. Then, last night an issue developed in one of the ship's engines. This morning the captain of the vessel declared it unsafe to continue with our project and aborted the expedition. We are now on our long voyage back to Punta Arenas. As you might imagine the team is deeply disappointed, but safe. There is already talk about rescheduling the DXpedition. [Co-leaders K0IR, K4UEE, LA6VM]

This annual cold weather contest is sponsored by the Arizona ScQRPIons QRPClub and was held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at in the yard behind the 55 Plus Centre. Proving once more that QRPerers are a hardy breed.



FYBO 2018

Once again, intrepid Hams braved the wild outdoors of Northwestern Ontario



Photo Credit :
Bill Unger
VE3XT



LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Vice-President: Bob Hansen
VE3RVA

Treasurer: Bill Unger VE3XT

Board Member: Mike Skillen VE3EDX

Board Member: Mark Vaillant
VA3MVR

Board Member: Brad Harris VE3MXJ

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 214 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hqnewsletter@gmail.com

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Last Monday of every Month - ARES net on VE3YQT - 7 pm
(you do not have to be an ARES member to check in)

Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency Coordinator

vacant

CANWARN

**VA3JMS John 767-3631
VE3RRP Karl**

Public Service Events

VA3TBA Chris Chadwick

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

flesnick@tbaytel.net

VE3VAI Lori Bedford 807 630 -7688

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

February

What's Happening at LARC Meetings

Bill Unger VE3XT

AS a bit of a recap at the January meeting Randy led a session on the revitalization of the LARC. He gave us a bit of a road map to determine our goals, increase membership and make meetings more interesting to name two and now we need to implement the changes to meet these goals in the short and long term. This project will take time and a lot of effort on the part of LARC'ers. Are we up to the task? I believe so and hope we all can make it happen. Remember what you get out of the club membership is directly proportional to what you put into it.

For the February meeting we are having a guest speaker. Multidisciplinary artist and educator Riaz Mehmood will be giving a talk on the Arduino µController. "The Arduino makes it easy for people to do some quick programming and prototyping" says Mehmood. This should be a particularly interesting presentation and we are hoping for a good turnout. There is a possibility of this turning into a series of lessons in the future. Stay tuned. We will be at our regular meeting place in the McIntyre building at Confederation College on Thursday, February 8 at 7:30.

As mentioned earlier if you are doing something interesting please contact a member of the executive and we can schedule you into a meeting for a demo.

Tnx 'XT

Flying with your Ham Radio Gear??

Ron VE4PL is passing on a reply he received from the Canadian Air Transportation Authority (CATSA) on January 24, 2018 ...

" On behalf of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), we thank you for your e-mail dated January 23rd 2018.

Transport Canada regulates what is permitted on board flights originating in Canada. These regulations are enforced by screening officers at pre-board security.

Electronic devices (e.g. walkie-talkies, small amateur radio transceivers and power banks) are permitted in both carry-on and checked baggage. Please note that large electronic devices such as DVD players, laptops,

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projectors and gaming consoles will need to be removed from their carrying case and placed in a bin for x-ray screening.

Of note, CATSA has been required by Transport Canada to implement enhanced measures for screening electronic devices. These measures came into effect on July 19, 2018, and as a result, passengers may be selected for additional screening of their electronic devices.

We encourage all passengers to ensure that covers and protective cases can be easily removed or removed in advance of screening and that their electronics are charged.

If the case or cover cannot be removed and/or the device cannot be turned on, it will not be permitted beyond the checkpoint. The device may be surrendered at the checkpoint, or passengers may exit the checkpoint and take the device to their air carrier.

For any questions regarding the regulation concerning the use of these devices during your flight, please contact your air carrier.

We invite you to visit our web site at
<http://www.catsa.gc.ca/whatcanIbring>

for travel tips and a complete listing of all permitted and non-permitted items.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information.

Sincerely,
Client Satisfaction / Satisfaction de la clientele "

from the Winnipeg ARC "Newscaster" used with permission.



Every second Saturday in the Chronicle-Journal there is an article by Brian Ratcliff on birds seen in and around Thunder Bay. It's always a read me first, well as I'm of a certain age its first after the obituaries. Who knew Woodpeckers knew Morse! And according to Brians article some run QRO and others QRP. But like any good DX'er they are always on the lookout for a new one. From my operating position I can occasionally see the odd woodpecker and I wonder if they are listening to my signal? Finally I wonder how or where you would send a QSL to. I hope you enjoy Brian's article as much as I did.

Bill 'XT

Woodpeckers communicating using Morse Code

Brian Ratcliff - used with permission

One morning last week when it was very cold, I bundled up and went out to the woodpile to bring in a few loads of firewood. It was a very still and calm morning. At first, the only sounds I heard were the crackling of the snow under my feet as I walked, but soon I could also hear this tapping sound.

As I put down the wheelbarrow, I could distinctly hear the sound of tapping on metal. Looking around, I found a male hairy woodpecker high on the hydro pole leading down the driveway. Right at the top of the pole there is an insulator and it is attached to the pole by a metal bracket. The woodpecker was perched just below the bracket on the pole and reaching up to tap.

Woodpeckers are known to drum on trees to announce their territories. Dead wood is great at giving off a strong tapping sound when struck. Metal works even better.

I walked up and had a good look at the woodpecker as it tapped away. It was not even concerned that I was about 10 metres away. This woodpecker was busy staking claim to the area. The high pinging tapping sound reverberated in all directions across the yard. As I listened to at least three sets of tapping, there, farther along the driveway, was another set of lower volume tapping.

After each burst of tapping by the woodpecker on the pole, there about 30 metres away was another male hairy woodpecker sending back a message. To my ears

it sounded like the same message being sent both ways, but I am confident that the bird tapping on the metal was sending out a stronger, and louder message. The dueling tapping continued for at least 20 minutes. By then I had enough wood.

As I listened to both birds, it reminded me of when I watched old western movies when messages were sent by Morse Code. A message would be tapped out at one end of the line, there would be a pause, and then a tapped message would be received in response. This is exactly what I was hearing that morning.

It is still only January and the middle of winter, but these woodpeckers are already getting ready for the breeding season. I'm sure as the days get longer I will be hearing more Morse Code messages in the yard.

In Flight appears every other week in the Saturday Outdoors section. Send your unusual bird sightings by e-mail to bratcliff@tbaytel.net, by fax to 343-9409, or write to Birds, c/o The Chronicle- Journal, 75 S. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 1A3.



February

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Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: January 11, 2018

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Guest Speaker:

Randy McAllister: Fact gathering for Revitalization Planning of LARC

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Chris Chadwick VA3TBA. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Brad Harris VE3MXJ. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service (Chris Chadwick VA3TBA public events coordinator)

Past Events:

Grand Marais Mail Run (Dog Race) January 6th had 31 dog teams participate

Upcoming Events

Sleeping Giant Loppet Saturday March 3, 2018, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Coordinator

Randy will touch base with the volunteer pool shortly.

10 Mile Road Race May 2018, Norm Bell VE3XRC Coordinator

Bear Grease Dog Race January 28-31 south of the border.

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

No news

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Monthly Net on the last Monday of the month.

Other news: Brad is re-establishing regional hospital contact.

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

No news

New Business

RAC Bulletin Highlights by VE3RRP

Adjournment moved by: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Next Executive Meeting: February 1, 2018, 7:30 PM, RM 213

Next LARC Meeting: February 8, 2018, 7:30 PM, RM 214

RAC Notes

Radio Amateurs of Canada would like to welcome Peter Toth, VE4TTH, as the Deputy Director for the Midwest Region. RAC Midwest Director, Bj Madsen, VE5FX, appointed Peter as Deputy Director on January 8, 2018.

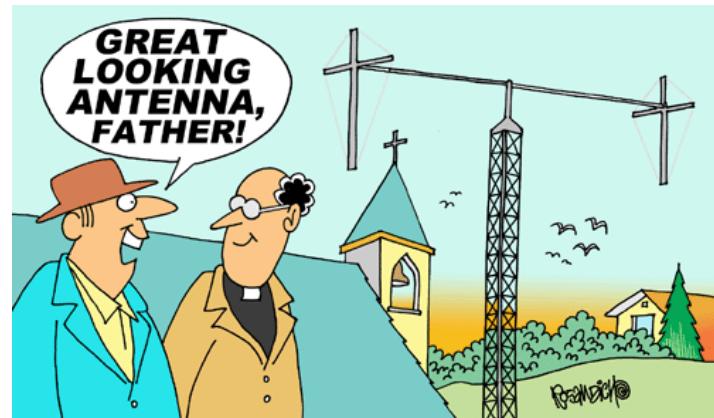
ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, to Retire

Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, the ARRL's Chief Executive Officer for the past two years, announced his retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors prepares to meet January 19-20. He will step down on March 2. Gallagher, who had earlier advised ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of his intention to resign, expressed his gratitude to Roderick and the ARRL Board for giving him the opportunity to help guide the organization.

RAC President attends ARRL Board Meeting: January 19-20

Jan's Links

<http://www.cnn.com/2018/01/10/world/repeating-fast-radio-burst-frb121102/index.html>



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Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

January 2018 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance January 1, 2018	<u>\$608.35</u>
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Income

Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenses

November 1, 2017 Emergency repairs to VE3YQT Heliax Connector and associated parts	\$55.79
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Total Expenses	<u>\$55.79</u>
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Closing Balance January 31, 2018	<u>\$552.56</u>
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<u>Trailer Account</u>		
<u>Income</u>	Previous Balance	\$438.86
Interest		\$0.04
Total		\$438.90
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		\$0.00
	Balance in Trailer Account	\$438.90

Term Account

Opening Balance January 01,2018	\$2,059.65
January Interest	\$0.25

closing Balance January 31, 2018	\$2,059.90
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Bill Unger VE3XT

Treasurer

What to do when it is -32F

Let me start by saying that I need some of the other members to come and join me on the trail. It is a challenge to endure long hours and cold temps but the return is good times and new friends.

Grand Marais Mail Run is a dual run up the Gunflint Trail. This race is usually held early in January on the first or second Saturday of the month. The two races consist of one group of 12 dog teams and a group of 8 dog teams. The 12 dog teams run $2 \times 50 = 100$ mile and the 8 dog teams run 2×32.5 miles for a 65 mile run. They do 2 loops of the trails. On the second loop, they go out in the reverse order of what they finished in the first loop. So that means the last team in is the first team out on the second run. So this gives you plenty of time to catch these furry athletes at different times of the day.

If I were to choose the best time for this race, night time is more exciting. Daylight hours are generally better for pictures and viewing but night time is better for the soul. Under the cover of darkness, you rely on your senses to listen and observe because nothing makes people forget how cold it is than someone yelling "team". Everyone has a job to do. Race stats are done by the race communications team. Volunteers at the checkpoint count dogs and form human barriers to direct the teams on the correct trails. By the light of the fire, the dog team passes with the volunteers cheering them on. The mushers are humbled by the checkpoint crews offering high fives and giant "THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING" knowing that this couldn't be done without that help of the volunteers. It is comforting to the teams to know that there is someone out there on the trail, just around the next bend that can help them and raise the spirit of the whole team with their presence and dedication.

I understand this is not for everyone, but it gives you a chance to test yourself under extreme conditions. Most people would not venture out at those temps and that is completely understandable. I have people question my sanity when I do go but I go because I want to be part of this and have fun with the new folks that I get to meet each year. The second reason that I go is to hook up with some old friends that feel the same way I do about volunteering. Ham radio has been good to me and this is my way of saying thanks to my friends that encouraged me to get into the hobby and also my way of saying thanks to the community that has helped me grow into the person that I am.

My geographical location on the planet says it is going to get cold for a few months, so make the best of it. Can you imagine the reaction of people that live in warm climates when you tell them that you do this for fun at -32F. "Mable, get me the gun, this boy gone loco" would probably be fitting.

On the trails.....

Randy VA3OJ



John Beargrease Dog Sled Marathon

Well, here we are again. I am now at the second dog sled race of the month. The Beargrease race is held annually, weather permitting, near the end of January. It is run on the Minnesota Snowmobile Trails. Many thanks to this organization to give up the trails for 4-5 days so this special event can be run.

I returned to Trail Center checkpoint as I have done in the past. The crew at this site is a group of seasoned veterans. Every year is like a family reunion. From the race officials, to the vets looking after the dogs, to the race officials keeping the stats flowing smoothly, you don't feel like you are working. Everyone has a job to do and everyone backs up everything so nothing gets missed.

After a brief hello at the comms desk with Jayne N0UYQ, it is time to suit up and get down to the action. Race conditions are really good this year and the teams are flying. A number of teams in the marathon division have arrived. Rick KB0BDN and Doug N0IKD have been manning the shoot since about 3 am. Again, we have this temperature thing, -18F but with all the excitement at the landing, we have a good turnout to cheer on the teams. Trail Center is the finishing point for the mid distance dog teams. I missed the first place team in the mid distance but see that she has come down to the landing to cheer on her fellow competitors. Team after frosty team pull up to the landing hearing the cheers of the handlers and spectators. If you don't think a little cheering can help, just watch the dogs as they come across the lake. Dedicated to task, pulling hard, and ears back until the chants of encouragement from the spectators reach their ears. Then, the ears come up and slowly the team is revitalized as they break into a trot that shaves off time on their quest. It does the heart good. The frost on the mushers face and eyelashes tell a tale of triumph and the never ending encouragement to the dogs. Race officials move in taking the time of finish and counting dogs. Sometimes, when one of the furry athletes comes up lame, it is carefully removed from its leash and is now a passenger in the sled. Each and every dog is accounted for and vet checked to make sure that they are in good shape for the next section of the race. Because of the theme of the Beargrease Dog Sled Race was to honour John Beargrease, a mail deliverer that with his dog team, delivered mail up the shore of Lake Superior. Each team is required to deliver a mail bag to the race officials at the finish line. The race officials retrieve the mail bags and the dog teams are escorted to the great meal and warm beds that they deserve.

With each team, the stats are relayed to Beargrease net control. This is where the amateur radio operators shine. Many years, not hours , have been put into installing towers and repeaters that cover this vast area. The whole race is connected by repeaters from the Lake Superior Amateur Coalition and The Boundary Waters Amateur Radio Clubs. Without this vital communication link, many of the remote checkpoints and road crossing would not be accessible with reliable communications. Traffic flows and stats are kept to keep the mushers safe out on the trail. As the teams go through checkpoints, times are relayed ahead to get the next checkpoint ready. Our job at Trail Center is to handle the mid distance finish times and relay to Grand Portage when the marathon teams are leaving. I wish I had a number on hand to tell you how many hams are involved during the race, but let me assure you it is a fair number. So far this year, I am the only out of country ham working the Beargrease. We have people from all over the state and US helping in some capacity. One of the regulars at the Caribou checkpoint come from Minneapolis with their grandkids in a camper and makes this their winter camping adventure. I had the pleasure of meeting them a few years ago while running sweep for the dog sled race. Camping in the winter is a challenge at the best of times but do it with grandkids, hats off friend!

After the excitement of the mid distance race is over, the fever starts to rise again. The telltale sign of a team departing is in the air. The old saying "if you have heard one, you have heard them all" is close. The way it comes out is "if you hear one, you will hear them all". One yelp will turn into a concert. Howl, bark, yelp, and squeal are a few of the telltale signs that someone is on a mission. Next thing you know, here comes a fully outfitted 12 dog team down to the landing. Race officials count dogs again and with a flick of pen, a signature is applied to paper and the team is ready to leave. With the parking brake applied, the musher walks the line and playfully fluffs up his buddies. He crouches down and hugs his leads and rubs their heads. He walks back to the sled, steps on the foot brake, removes the parking brake and with a shout of encouragement, 12 dogs take off

with a mighty pull. They head out on the lake and disappear around the point. Team after team, they prep and leave.

Now, there is eerie silence. Handlers and helpers clean up the site and pack up to head on down the trail to catch their team at the next checkpoint. These teams of support staff are hard working and deserve an honourable mention as they work long hours on minimal sleep and are always ready to answer the call. The race officials take a break to catch up on some rest time and food. With a high five and see ya next year, they bolt through the door and are off to the next port of call. With our jobs at Trail Center finished, the hams grab some food that has been eluding them all day. Pack up the radio gear, pull down the antennas, and put it all in the cars is the last item on the agenda for today. Well wishes are exchanged, and it is time to hit the road for a two hour drive back to Thunder Bay.

It has been another fun day out of doors doing some great volunteering. It does a body good and you can never have too many friends. Amateur radio has given me so much, and it is a great feeling knowing that someone, somewhere out there needs our support and we are able to respond and offer a hand.

Until next year, maybe see ya on the trails

Randy
VA3OJ 73's



February 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 LARC Meeting at Con College McIntyre Building	9 QRP Fox Hunt	10	11 Balkan HF Contest
12	13	14 PODXS 070 Club Val- entine Sprint <i>Nothing says love like spending Val- entines Day on your rig!</i>	15	16	17 ARRL In- ternational DX Contest, CW	18
19 Family Day	20	21 CW ops Mini CWT Sprint CQ 160 Me- tre Contest, SSB	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Phone Fray			March 3 ARRL Inter- national DX Contest, SSB	